

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-6 (**Canceled**).

7. (**Currently Amended**) An apparatus, comprising:

at least one processor~~that~~; and

a memory element electronically coupled to the at least one processor, the memory element comprising software that when executed by the at least one processor, directs the at least one processor to:

receive[[s]] a plurality of requests to perform a selected one of a buying and [[a]] to selling operation associated with a futures contract,

~~the futures contract operable to be purchased or sold in a financial market environment,~~

wherein a buyer of the futures contract agrees to at least (i) buy a first asset underlying the futures contract and (ii) buy a second asset underlying the futures contract at an expiration of the futures contract,

wherein a seller of the futures contract agrees to at least (i) sell the first asset underlying the futures contract and (ii) sell the second asset underlying the futures contract at the expiration of the futures contract,

wherein the first asset comprises a fixed income bond,

wherein the second asset class comprises a credit default swap issued on the fixed income bond,

wherein the futures contract specifies:

(i) ~~based at least in part on:~~ a quantity of the fixed income bond first asset class to be delivered at the expiration of the futures contract, having a first value associated therewith; and

(ii) a quantity of the credit default swap second asset class to be delivered at the expiration of the futures contract having a second value associated therewith, wherein a price for the futures contract is

~~determined at least partially by the first and second values; and~~

wherein the apparatus is operable to receive the plurality of requests via a communications network from respective computing devices;

execute a transaction involving at least one of the plurality of requests to sell the futures contract;

provide to a respective computing device a confirmation of execution of the transaction involving the at least one request to sell the futures contract;

execute a transaction involving at least one of the plurality of requests to buy the futures contract; and

provide[[s]] to another respective computing device a confirmation ~~notice associated~~ of execution of the transaction involving the at least one request to buy ~~with a sale or a purchase of the futures contract.~~

8. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim 7,
wherein the at least one request to sell the futures contract comprises proposed contract terms;

wherein the at least one request to buy the futures contract comprises proposed contract terms; and

wherein the software, when executed by the at least one processor, further directs the at least one processor to:

match[[es]] one or more of the proposed contract terms of ~~provided in the at least one request to sell~~ with an available ~~availability associated with the futures contract that satisfies the proposed contract terms of the at least request to sell; and~~

match one or more of the proposed contract terms of the at least one request to buy with an available futures contract that satisfies the proposed contract terms of the at least one request to buy.

9. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim 7,
wherein the software, when executed by the at least one processor, further directs the at least one processor to:

~~further comprising a memory element that store[[s]] in another memory element [[a]]
the transaction associated with a purchase or a sale of involving the at least one request to
sell the futures contract; and
store in the another memory element the transaction involving the at least one request
to buy.~~

Claims 10-11 (Canceled).

12. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the software, when
executed by the at least one processor, further directs the at least one processor communicates
with a price reporting/dissemination element that is operable to:
provide to at least one of the plurality of computing devices financial data on the
futures contract~~to a selected one of the buyer and the seller.~~

13. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim 7,
wherein ~~a change in the first value~~ fixed income bond has a value; due to a cheapest
to deliver parameter results in a change in
wherein the credit default swap has a second value; and
wherein the value of the fixed income bond and the value of the credit default swap
are not independent.

14. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the futures contract
includes a pricing methodology that is based on basis points per annum, the pricing
methodology being used at least partially to determine ~~the a~~ a price for the futures contract.

15. **(Withdrawn)** A method for transacting an asset in a financial environment,
comprising:
receiving a request to perform a selected one of a purchasing and a selling operation
for a futures contract, wherein the futures contract includes a first asset class having a first
value associated therewith and a second asset class having a second value associated
therewith, and wherein a price for the futures contract is determined at least partially by the
first and second values.

16. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 15, wherein a change in the first value due to a cheapest to deliver parameter results in a change in the second value.

17. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 15, further comprising:
providing a third asset class in the futures contract, the third asset class having a third value associated therewith, wherein the first, second, and third values are used at least partially to determine the price.

18. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 15, further comprising:
allocating that the first, second, and third asset classes each make up a third of the futures contract.

19. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 15, further comprising:
delivering the futures contract to a purchaser thereof.

20. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 15, further comprising:
implementing a pricing methodology that is based on basis points per annum, the pricing methodology being used at least partially to determine the price for the futures contract.

21. **(Withdrawn)** A futures contract prepared by a process comprising the steps of:
receiving a request to perform a selected one of a purchasing and a selling operation for the futures contract, wherein the futures contract includes a first asset class having a first value associated therewith and a second asset class having a second value associated therewith, and wherein a price for the futures contract is determined at least partially by the first and second values.

22. **(Withdrawn)** The process of claim 21, wherein a change in the first value due to a cheapest to deliver parameter results in a change in the second value.

23. **(Withdrawn)** The process of claim 21, further comprising:
providing a third asset class in the futures contract, the third asset class having a third value associated therewith, wherein the first, second, and third values are used at least partially to determine the price.

24. **(Withdrawn)** The process of claim 21, further comprising:
assigning ownership of the futures contract to a purchaser thereof.

25. **(Withdrawn)** A system for offering an asset in a financial environment,
comprising:
means for receiving a request to perform a selected one of a purchasing and a selling
operation for a futures contract, wherein the futures contract includes a first asset class having
a first value associated therewith and a second asset class having a second value associated
therewith, and wherein a price for the futures contract is determined at least partially by the
first and second values; and
means for assigning possession of the futures contract to an entity associated with
performing the selected one of the purchasing and selling operations.

26. **(Withdrawn)** The system of claim 25, wherein a change in the first value due to a
cheapest to deliver parameter results in a change in the second value.

27. **(Withdrawn)** The system of claim 25, further comprising:
means for providing a third asset class in the futures contract, the third asset class
having a third value associated therewith, wherein the first, second, and third values are used
at least partially to determine the price.

28. **(Withdrawn)** The system of claim 25, further comprising:
means for determining the price using the first and second values.

29. **(Withdrawn)** The system contract of claim 25, further comprising:
means for implementing a pricing methodology that is based on basis points per
annum, the pricing methodology being used at least partially to determine the price for the
futures contract.

Claims 30-35 **(Canceled)**.

36. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus, comprising:
at least one processor~~that;~~ and

a memory element electronically coupled to the at least one processor, the memory element comprising software that when executed by the at least one processor, directs the at least one processor to:

receive[[s]] a plurality of request to perform a selected one of a buying and [[a]] to selling operation associated with a futures contract,

wherein a buyer of the futures contract operable to be purchased or sold in a financial market environment, agrees to at least (i) buy a first asset underlying the futures contract and (ii) buy a second asset underlying the futures contract at an expiration of the futures contract; based

wherein a seller of the futures contract agrees to at least in part on an (i) sell the first asset class underlying the futures contract and (ii) sell the second asset underlying the futures contract at the expiration of the futures contract comprising;

wherein the first asset comprises a fixed income bond issued by a first government,

wherein the second asset comprises a fixed income bond issued by a second government,

wherein the futures contract specifies:

(i) a quantity of the fixed income bond issued by the first government to be delivered at the expiration of the futures contract asset subclass having a first value associated therewith; and

(ii) a quantity of the fixed income bond issued by the second government to be delivered at the expiration of tasset subclass having a second value associated therewith, wherein a price for the futures contract is determined at least partially by the first and second values; and

wherein the apparatus is operable to receive the plurality of requests via a communications network from respective computing devices;

execute a transaction involving at least one of the plurality of requests to sell the futures contract;

provide to a respective computing device a confirmation of execution of the transaction involving the at least one request to sell the futures contract;
execute a transaction involving at least one of the plurality of requests to buy the futures contract; and
provide[[s]] to another respective computing device a confirmation of execution of the transaction involving the at least one request to buy ~~notice associated with a sale or a purchase of the futures contract.~~

37. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim 36,
wherein the at least one request to sell the futures contract comprises proposed contract terms;
wherein the at least one request to buy the futures contract comprises proposed contract terms; and
wherein the software, when executed by the at least one processor, further directs the at least one processor to:
match[[es]] one or more of the proposed contract terms ~~of provided in the at least one request to sell~~ with an ~~availability available associated with the~~ futures contract ~~that satisfies the proposed contract terms of the at least one request to sell;~~
and
match one or more of the proposed contract terms of the at least one request to buy with an available futures contract that satisfies the proposed contract terms of the at least one request to buy.

38. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim 36,
wherein the software, when executed by the at least one processor, further directs the at least one processor to:
~~further comprising a memory element that store[[s]] in another memory element [[a]] the transaction associated with a purchase or a sale of~~ involving the at least one request to sell ~~futures contract; and~~
store in the another memory element the transaction involving the at least one request to buy.

Claim 39 **(Canceled)**.

40. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim 36,
wherein the buyer of the futures contract is based at least in part on further agrees to
buy a third asset underlying the futures contract subelassat the expiration of the futures
contract;

wherein the seller of the futures contract further agrees to sell having a the third asset
underlying the futures contract value associated therewith, wherein the first, second, and third
values are used at least partially to determine the price at the expiration of the futures
contract;

wherein the third asset comprises a fixed income bond issued by a third government;
and

wherein the futures contract further specifies a quantity of the fixed income bond
issued by the third government to be delivered at the expiration of the futures contract.

41. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the software, when
executed by the at least one processor, further directs the at least one processor communicates
with a price reporting/dissemination element that is operable to;

provide to at least one of the plurality of computing devices financial data on the
futures contract to a selected one of the buyer and the seller.

42. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim 36,
wherein the fixed income bond issued by the first government a change in the first has
value; due to a cheapest to deliver parameter results in a change in;

wherein the fixed income bond issued by the second government second has a value;
and

wherein the value of the fixed income bond issued by the first government and the
value of the fixed income bond issued by the second government are not independent.

43. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the futures contract
includes a pricing methodology that is based on basis points per annum, the pricing
methodology being used at least partially to determine ~~the~~ a price for the futures contract.

44. **(Withdrawn)** A method for transacting an asset in a financial environment,
comprising:

receiving a request to perform a selected one of a purchasing and a selling operation for a futures contract, wherein the futures contract includes an asset class that includes a first asset subclass having a first value associated therewith and a second asset subclass having a second value associated therewith, and wherein a price for the futures contract is determined at least partially by the first and second values.

45. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 44, wherein a change in the first value due to a cheapest to deliver parameter results in a change in the second value.

46. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 44, further comprising:
providing a third asset subclass in the futures contract, the third asset class having a third value associated therewith, wherein the first, second, and third values are used at least partially to determine the price.

47. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 44, further comprising:
allocating that the first, second, and third asset subclasses each make up a third of the futures contract.

48. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 44, further comprising:
assigning ownership of the futures contract to a purchaser thereof.

49. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 44, further comprising:
implementing a pricing methodology that is based on basis points per annum, the pricing methodology being used at least partially to determine the price for the futures contract.

50. **(Withdrawn)** A system for offering an asset in a financial environment,
comprising:

means for receiving a request to perform a selected one of a purchasing and a selling operation for a futures contract, wherein the futures contract includes an asset class that includes a first asset subclass having a first value associated therewith and a second asset subclass having a second value associated therewith, and wherein a price for the futures contract is determined at least partially by the first and second values; and

means for assigning possession of the futures contract to an entity associated with performing the selected one of the purchasing and selling operations.

51. **(Withdrawn)** The system of claim 50, wherein a change in the first value due to a cheapest to deliver parameter results in a change in the second value.

52. **(Withdrawn)** The system of claim 50, further comprising:
means for providing a third asset class in the futures contract, the third asset class having a third value associated therewith, wherein the first, second, and third values are used at least partially to determine the price.

53. **(Withdrawn)** The system of claim 50, further comprising:
means for implementing a pricing methodology that is based on basis points per annum, the pricing methodology being used at least partially to determine the price for the futures contract.

54. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the ~~processor-futures~~ contract includes a settlement term indicating that determines a settlement price of the futures contract be based at least in part on a volume-weighted average price of a plurality of trades associated with the futures contract.

55. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the ~~processor-futures~~ contract includes a settlement term indicating that determines a settlement price of the futures contract based at least in part on a volume-weighted average price of a plurality of trades associated with the futures contract.

Claim 56 **(Canceled)**.

57. **(New)** The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the first asset comprises a fixed income bond issued by a corporation.

58. **(New)** The apparatus of claim 36,
wherein the first asset comprises a fixed income bond issued by a first European government; and

wherein the second asset comprises a fixed income bond issued by a second European government, wherein the second European government is the Italian government.

59. **(New)** The apparatus of claim 36,
wherein the first asset comprises a fixed income bond issued by one of a European government and the Japanese government; and
wherein the second asset comprise a fixed income bond issued by the U.S. government.

60. **(New)** The apparatus of claim 40,
wherein the first asset comprises a fixed income bond issued by the U.S. government;
wherein the second asset comprises a fixed income bond issued by the German government; and
wherein the third asset comprises a fixed income bond issued by the French government.

61. **(New)** The apparatus of claim 40,
wherein the first asset comprises a fixed income bond issued by the Italian government;
wherein the second asset comprises a fixed income bond issued by the German government; and
wherein the third asset comprises a fixed income bond issued by the French government.

62. **(New)** The apparatus of claim 40,
wherein the first asset comprises a fixed income bond issued by a first European government;
wherein the second asset comprises fixed a income bond issued by a second European government; and
wherein the third asset comprises a fixed income bond issued by a third European government.

63. **(New)** The apparatus of claim 62, wherein the third European government is the Italian government.

64. (New) The apparatus of claim 40,
wherein the first asset comprises a fixed income bond issued by a European
government;
wherein the second asset comprises a fixed income bond issued by the U.S.
government; and
wherein the third asset comprises a fixed income bond issued by the Japanese
government.